

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

STAY INVOLVED

Find information on your legislators,
GA schedule and bills to watch.

www.mami.wordpress.com



UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE ISSUES THIS YEAR

- Changing definition of grand larceny
- Increase in the amount of "good time" before parole
- Repeal of truth in sentencing (requirement to serve at least 85% of sentence imposed or 100% for violent crimes)
- Decriminalization of drugs
- Use of Solitary Confinement
- Restoring authority to judges
- Rehabilitative Programming and Earned Sentence Credits
- Tax Deductions for those working with inmates
- Rights Restoration

**FIND AND CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR AS
WELL AS FIND OUT GA SCHEDULE & BILLS:**

www.virginageneralassembly.gov

SAMPLE PHONE CALL, LETTER WRITING TALKING POINTS

Dear _____, This year it is important to me that Mass Incarceration be examined by the 2014 General Assembly so we can thoughtfully come up with solutions to our serious incarceration problems. It is time that Virginia follows the lead of other states, liberal and conservative, and shift our focuses from punishment to rehabilitation. We incarcerate at a cost of \$25,129 per inmate per year in Virginia. The cost to incarcerate a young person in a juvenile facility is roughly \$100,000 per year. This is outrageous and it has to stop. Studies have shown that reduced sentencing and real drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs reduce recidivism while harsh and long sentences increase recidivism. We have high recidivism rates in Virginia due to our improper treatment of drug and alcohol addiction, harsh punishment for drug offenses, truth in sentencing, lack of work and education programs and lack of access to increased earned sentence credits for good behavior and program completions. I demand that these issues are thoroughly researched by you and your staff before you come to session this year. In addition to these illogical processes, high recidivism rates, lack of access to programs and harsh sentencing. I would like you to look into the treatment of our inmates. This includes but is not limited to health care access, abuse rates, prisoner death rates, access to visitation and community, the use of solitary confinement and unnecessarily harsh punishments. It is your job to guarantee that conditions of these prisons are humane. I urge you to visit DOC facilities as soon as possible and talk to Virginia inmates in depth. I will be following up soon and I expect, along with a large contingency of Virginians, that this year be the year that our prison systems are examined and changed. Thank you _____

ORGANIZE!

VIRGINIA PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Day of workshops, networking and action for change in Virginia

<http://www.vapeoplesassembly.org/>

ORGANIZATIONS TO CHECK OUT

GET MORE INVOLVED IN ISSUES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, INMATE RE-INTEGRATION AND SUPPORT, THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE, WOMEN AND LBTQ IN THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE WAR ON DRUGS!

Richmond JERICH0 – www.thejerichomovement.com

Resources, Information and Help for the Disadvantaged – www.rihd.org

The Flying Brick! – www.flyingbrickrva.wordpress.com

The Defenders for Freedom, Justice and Equality- www.defendersfje.org

The Advancement Project – www.advancementproject.org

Southerners on New Ground (SONG) – songrva.tumblr.com

Richmond Reproductive Freedom Project – www.rrfp.org

Wayside Center – www.waysidecenter.org

November Coalition – www.november.org

Boaz and Ruth - www.boazandruth.com

Virginia Alliance Against Mass Incarceration - www.vaalliance.org

Supporting Prisoners and Acting for Radical Change (SPARC) - sparcprairiefire.wordpress.com

RePHRAME – rephrase.blogspot.com

READ MORE ABOUT THE FAILING JUSTICE SYSTEM IN VIRGINIA – NEW REPORT BY THE JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE

www.justicepolicy.org/research/6870